

Message Text

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R 240832Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

UNCLAS STATE 099787

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, AG

SUBJEC : FOREIGN BUSINESS VISITOR, MUSTAPHA BOUARFA,
DIRECTOR, ALGERIAN NATIONAL COMPUTER AUTHORITY

REF: STATE 91260

1. BOUARFA AND TEN MEMBER ALGERIAN DELEGATION MET AS SCHEDULED AT COMMERCE APRIL 21 FOR INFORMATIVE PRESENTATION AND USEFUL DIALOGUE WITH U.S. COMPUTER COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES. MEETING, HOSTED BY DAS FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE HOSTLER, PROVIDED OCCASION FOR MOST BUSINESSMEN TO HAVE BRIEF PERSONAL TALK WITH MEMBERS OF ALGERIAN DELEGATION. THIS GROUP MEETING WAS APPARENTLY THE ONLY MEETING MR. BOUARFA AND GOA EMBASSY SCHEDULED, DESPITE REQUESTS FROM ABOUT TEN FIRMS FOR LUNCHEONS, PLANT VISITS AND LENGTHY PRIVATE MEETINGS. BOUARFA APOLOGIZED FOR INABILITY MEET SEPARATELY WITH FIRMS ON THIS TRIP, BECAUSE OF HECTIC SCHEDULE, BUT INVITED U.S. BUSINESSMEN TO VISIT ALGIERS. ALSO INVITED FIRMS TO HOLD SEMINARS IN ALGIERS ON THEIR TECHNOLOGY, AND SAID CNI WOULD INVITE OTHER INTERESTED GOA AGENCIES AND MAKE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUCH SEMINARS.

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2. BOUARFA SAID THAT PRELIMINARY CNI STUDIES INDICATE THAT ALL NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY FOR ALGERIAN EDP DEVELOPMENT CAN APPARENTLY BE FOUND WITHIN U.S. COMPUTER INDUSTRY, AND STATED THAT COMPANIES PRESENT STOOD VERY GOOD CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN ALGERIA'S EDP PROGRAMS. HE SEEMED OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH RESPONSE BY U.S. INDUSTRY TO HIS REQUEST FOR THIS MEETING AND EXPRESSED THANKS FOR AMEMBASSY ALGIERS AND USDOC SUPPORT. BOUARFA ALSO EXPRESSED WISH TO USE SERVICES OF USDOC TO DISSEMINATE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, WHICH HE WILL SUPPLY, ON CNI STRUCTURE AND ON COMPUTER PLAN WHEN IT APPEARS AT END OF 1976. MEMCON AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF MEETING BEING POUCHED.

3. BELIEVE THAT GENERAL UPBEAT TONE OF MEETING WAS MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN INFORMATION EXCHANGED, SINCE DETAILS OF GOA COMPUTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND QUESTIONS FROM AUDIENCE WERE EQUALLY SPARSE.

4. USDOC WISHES EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO EMBASSY FOR COORDINATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THIS MEETING OVER PREVIOUS MANY MONTHS. SISCO

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